

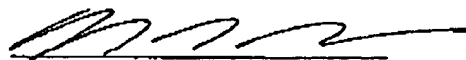
Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group 1 (Claims 1-13) for further prosecution. This election is made with traverse. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

This application is a §371 National Phase of a PCT application, and the restriction requirement is made on the assertion that the inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. The Office Action asserts that, due to the claim format in the claim groupings cited above, the common features between the claim groupings are known and that the claim groupings cannot have a special technical feature. Applicant respectfully asserts that this statement is in error. In particular, the characterizing technical feature defined in claim 1 and common to all groups distinguished by the Examiner is the availability of a restraining element above the particles to be separated in the oscillating fluid medium. While the availability of the restraining element in its duration in time or in the extent of space in which it is active varies, all (groups of) claims rely on the same technical feature and differ only with respect to its detailed engineering. Therefore, it is believed that the application relates properly to a group of inventions involving a single inventive concept, in accordance with PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2.

Withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 35 U.S.C. §372, and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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